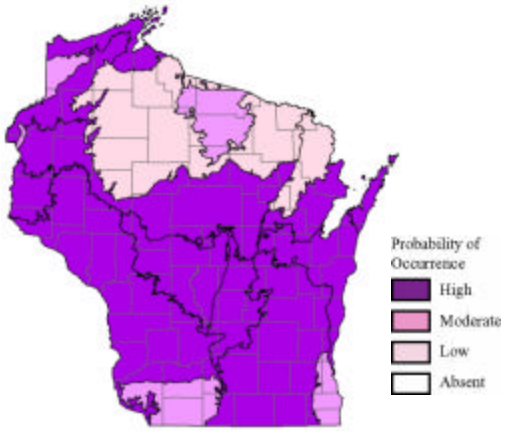
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	3
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	2
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	2
Mean Risk Score:	2.7
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape -community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Lake Michigan Coastal	Emergent marsh
Central Sand Hills	Emergent marsh
Central Sand Hills	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Sand Hills	Inland lakes
Central Sand Hills	Southern sedge meadow
Central Sand Hills	Wet-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Emergent marsh
Central Sand Plains	Floodplain forest
Central Sand Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Central Sand Plains	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Forest Transition	Emergent marsh
Forest Transition	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Northern Highland	Emergent marsh
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Emergent marsh
Northern Lake Michigan Coastal	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Northwest Sands	Inland lakes
Northwest Sands	Northern sedge meadow
Northwest Sands	Submergent marsh
Northwest Sands	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Emergent marsh
Southeast Glacial Plains	Floodplain forest
Southeast Glacial Plains	Impoundments/Reservoirs
Southeast Glacial Plains	Inland lakes
Southeast Glacial Plains	Mesic prairie
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern sedge meadow
Southeast Glacial Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Southeast Glacial Plains	Wet-mesic prairie

Ecological Landscape	Community
Superior Coastal Plain	Emergent marsh
Superior Coastal Plain	Emergent marsh - wild rice
Superior Coastal Plain	Submergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Dry-mesic prairie
Western Coulee and Ridges	Emergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Floodplain forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Submergent marsh
Western Coulee and Ridges	Surrogate grasslands
Western Prairie	Emergent marsh
Western Prairie	Mesic prairie
Western Prairie	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of grassland habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to supress woody growth can reduce grassland nesting habitat.
- Water use activities that result in the loss of, or negative impacts on, brood water (semi-permanent and permanent wetlands) and pair water (a mix of temporary, seasonal, semi-permanent, and permanent wetlands). Watercraft activity may significantly disrupt courtship, mating, feeding, or brood-rearing behaviors on waterbodies.
- Wetland drainage can also eliminate brood and pair water.
- Intensification of agriculture, including early and frequent harvest of hay, and conversion of grassland to row crops or tree plantations.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season (e.g., early mowing of hay) can prevent nest establishment or successful nesting.
- Blue-winged Teal is a neotropical migrant and faces threats due to habitat conversion or alteration on wintering and migration grounds as well.
- Aggressive, herbaceous invasive species, including yellow parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, thistles, reed canary grass, and some goldenrods, can degrade habitat quality of grasslands for this species.
- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat in certain cases, on winter, migration, and breeding grounds.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Restoration of temporary and seasonal wetlands is particularly needed in agricultural landscapes (Gammonley and Fredrickson 1995).
- Continue agricultural set-aside and wetland restoration programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of habitats.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open wetland/grassland landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Maintenance of optimal nesting habitat may require active management (allowing dead vegetation to accumulate and periodic burning, mowing, or grazing to prevent it from becoming too dense). Disturbance should be performed after the peak hatching period. Seeded dense nesting cover used by mallards and gadwalls seems to be less attractive to Blue-winged Teal (Gammonley and Fredrickson 1995).
- Partnerships are key for conserving this species in working agricultural landscapes.
- Control and eradicate aggressive invasive plants.